

## Romans 12:1-2

## “The Perfect Will of God”

**Attention:** Doing something the way everybody else does things may not be the best plan God has for you. Oftentimes, God’s way requires more participation, more waiting, and standing out to fit into His perfect plan.

**Need:** Have you ever felt like, **no matter how hard you try, nothing is working in your favor**? Perhaps you are **seeing a pattern of situational and emotional pain**. Stop and ask yourself **are you in God’s perfect will**, or maybe He is permitting you **free will to choose your own way, gambling the results**. The Perfect Will of God is for obedience and blessing; the Permissive Will of God often allows for human weakness and consequences.

Permissive means tolerant of or granting permission to. This is evident when we seek our own desires rather than the will of God. Jesus will even use our bad choices for His good (**Gen. 50:20**). One of many examples happened in the garden (**Gen. 3**). The Lord used it for His good (**Rom. 8:28**).

**Background:** The writer of this letter is identified as Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:1). He addresses the letter to all in Rome, called to be saints (**Rom. 1:7**). Paul wrote this letter at the end of his third missionary journey from Corinth in A.D. 57 or 58. **Paul wrote this letter to give an elaborate explanation of salvation and the gospel he preached**, and he was preparing the people for his arrival to Rome (**Rom. 1:15**). **Paul also wanted to diffuse any conflict that might have arisen between Jews and Gentiles; there seemed to be nagging pestilences that followed Paul in hopes to dissuade followers of Christ**. These were mainly Judaizers (**Gal. 5:1, 8; Phil. 3:18**).

Who was the transformed, apostle Paul? Saul of Tarsus got saved and was given the name Paul. Before this, he grew up in a province of Cilicia. He had the privilege of being a Roman citizen (which costed lots of money). He would eventually preach about his citizenship, which was not of the Earth, but his citizenship was in heaven. Paul was a Pharisee, and the son of a Pharisee. He was taught under Gamaliel, also a Pharisee. **They were legalistic and hyper-religious**. Simply put, they were a religious group of people which originated in the Old Testament who observed numerous religious rules. **He spent much of his ministry teaching that Gentiles did not need to become Jews or tenants of Jewish people**. Paul’s message was faith in Jesus Christ. Before his conversion, **he did much to try to destroy the church**, and he was very zealous in doing so. **Paul saw Christians as a thorn in the side of Judaism**, which practiced a sacrificial system. **He believed Jesus was a mere man who deserved to be executed for making Himself equal with God**. Christians were known as followers of The Way (**Acts 9:2, 19:23**). Paul asked permission from the high priest in Damascus to put Christians in prison (**Acts 9:1-2**). He not only despised the Lord’s disciples, but anyone that broadcasted Jesus Christ. **Following his conversion, many Christians did not believe that he was genuinely saved** (**Acts 9:13-14**). **Paul is an example of having a pivotal change in his life** when he met Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus. He would get persecuted or run off just about everywhere he went. His similar zeal against Christians (before his conversion) was demonstrated for the Gentiles and to see souls saved.

The apostle Paul has written about the necessity of for one to be saved. Now, **Christians must be devoted to the faith insomuch, that we are to die to our flesh and present our lives through our bodies unto God**. Paul is pleading to the believer to remember all that God has done for them through the Son. **We are to live out Christ through our bodies, which has been offered as a sacrifice for our faith. Our bodies are a temple of God, and this is the way we must worship Him. Believers are not to pattern themselves after the world**, but after Christ Jesus. Christians are not to emulate or imitate the world and its conformity. **The child of God is to be transformed by taking on a new mind and new identity with a paradigm shift in his behavior**. When this is being done, you will know the will of God for your life without question. Some get stuck, not understanding the will of God. His purpose for holy living is perfect and acceptably pleasing.

## 1. Have an Attitude of Serving.

- a. What I want vs. what God desires.
- b. The greatest example of this originates in **Genesis 3**—Adam and Eve rebelled.
  - i. Their neglect caused rebellion, produced delay, created detours, & suffered costs.
- c. **God doesn't want excuses—He desires obedience**—the devil made me do it!
- d. Many try to serve God without worshiping Him.
  - i. *“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”* (Romans 8:28).
- e. You can live saved and still live beneath perfect will.
  - i. You can be forgiven and still walk in detours.
  - ii. You can be called and still settle.

## 2. Recognize Hindrances.

- a. You cannot mix God's calling with nonsense.
- b. Lot chose the well-watered plains near Sodom (**Gen. 13:10**).
  - i. *“But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD.”* (Genesis 13:13, NKJV).
  - ii. God allowed it—But he lost:
    1. His witness.
      - a. *“So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, “Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!” But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.”* (Genesis 19:14).
- c. **Your friends list can cause you to lose interest in godly work.**
- d. His plan will take you further than resources can.

## 3. The Aptitude to Improve.

- a. The best way is God's way.
- b. Israel wanted a king “like other nations.”
  - i. It was not God's perfect will. But He permitted it in **1 Samuel 8**.
  - ii. *“Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, “Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.””* (1 Samuel 8:4–5).
- c. **Be transformed and keep a renewed mind.**
- d. God's perfect will has no regrets.
  - i. Jesus walked perfect will.
  - ii. Judas walked permissive will.
  - iii. Both were chosen. Only one surrendered fully.